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Washington May 10th 1846

Hon. Wm L. Marcy, Secretary of War

Sir, As one of the most measures rendered necessary by the conduct of Mexico, permit me to suggest the immediate construction of a Line of Magnetic Telegraph from Washington to New Orleans. It can be thrown up in 90 to 120 days by energetic efforts, and at a cost not exceeding $200.000.

If the government will build a Line of two wires, I have no hesitation in saying that Professor Morse and his associates will provide to it the free use of it at all times and the control of it in times of war, reserving to themselves the profits and control of all private business carried on by it.

Or if the government are averse to building it, and will loan Professor Morse and his associates the necessary funds, they will build it and allow the free use and in war the control of it for the use of the money, will refund the money in reasonable time, the government relinquishing its right to use it, and will mortgage the whole line as security in the mean time.

With this instrument at less than a week's expenditure of an army - may perhaps not a day's - you may render armies more efficient, perhaps save them from destruction, with less than the cost of one

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With this instrument at less than a week's expenditure of an army - may perhaps not a day's - you may render armies more efficient, perhaps save them from destruction, with less than the cost of one

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ship, the Secretary of the Navy may render all those employed in the Gulf, much more secure and perhaps doubly efficient; and if danger approaches from Europe, the whole southern coast, the army on the frontier and the navy in the Gulf may be put on their guard while it is yet at a distance. Emergencies will almost certainly occur, in which its use for a single day will be worth more than its whole cost, to say nothing of the preservation of human life.

It will give me a patriotic pleasure, aside from all private interest, to execute any plan which may be devised to bring this important instrument to bear upon the military and naval operations in the South.

With high consideration
Your Obt. Servt
Amos Kendall

P.M.G. Jackson
Van Buren

Washington May 10 - 1846.

Unpublished

Hon. Wm. L. Marcy, Secretary of War

Sir: As one of the War measures rendered necessary by the conduct of Mexico permit me to suggest the immediate construction of a line of magnetic Telegraph from Washington to New Orleans. It can be thrown up in 90 to 120 days by energetic efforts, and at a cost not exceeding $200,000.

If the Government will build a line of two wires, I have no hesitation in saying that Professor Morse and his associates will concede to it the free use of it at all times and the control of it in times of War, reserving to themselves the profits and control of all private business carried on by it.

Or if the Government are averse to building it, and will loan Professor Morse and his associates the necessary funds, they will build it and allow the free use and in War the control of it for the use of the money, will refund the money in reasonable time; the Government relinquishing its rights to it, and will mortgage the whole line as ~~security~~ Means in the ~~near~~ time.

With this instrument in less than a week's expenditure of an Army may perhaps not a day's - you may render armies more efficient, perhaps save them from destruction, with less than the cost of one ship, the Secretary of the Navy may render all those employed in the Gulf, much more secure and perhaps doubly efficient, and if danger approaches from Europe, the whole Southern Coast, the Army on the frontier and the Navy in the Gulf may be put on their guard while it is yet at a distance. Emergencies will almost certainly occur in which its use for a single days will be worth more than its whole cost, to say nothing of the preservation of human life.

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With high consideration
your Obt. servant

Amos Kendall
U S Postmaster General

Amy Dentsell
Lee Crothers

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